Middlebury

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Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

Winter 2016 - A Note from ISSS; Reminders; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner

A Note from ISSS

On February 9, ISSS welcomed six new international students and U.S. students from abroad during our Early Arrival for February students ("Febs"). This small group of students are from a wide variety of countries including Colombia, China, and India. We wish them well as they begin a new educational journey and make the town of Middlebury their home.

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in being matched with a student during our winter matching. If you or anyone you know is interested in hosting a student in the fall, please let us know at isss@middlebury.edu .

Reminders

Host Information Changes

Please keep us posted about any address/ phone/email changes so we can keep our records up-to-date. We don't want you to miss out on any important FIS happenings!

Student Employment Restrictions

With very few exceptions, international students in the U.S. in F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor visa status (which describes most of Middlebury's international students) are not allowed to work off-campus during the academic year. To accept off-campus employment during vacation periods they would need to make a special application (3–4 month application procedure that costs $380). Unfortunately, this means that house-sitting, babysitting, pet-sitting, etc. for pay are not options for most international students. Internships during the summer are possible, but require advance planning. ISSS is offering workshops this month to inform students of the employment authorization application process for both graduating seniors and junior, sophomore and first-year students. More information can be found on the ISSS website and in the "Upcoming Events" section later in this newsletter.

Summer Employment on Campus

Middlebury undergraduates who want to work on campus in the summer can look for opportunities on the Student Employment website at: http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/business/seo/summer . Contracts for summer positions are due by April 15.

Important Dates

Winter Carnival

This year's winter carnival recess will begin on Thursday, February 25th at 4:15pm. As part of the special weekend, Middlebury students have the day off from classes on February 26th. Many events are planned for the weekend. Come join the fun!
http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/activities/winter_carnival

Spring break

The break will begin after the last class on Friday, March 25 and classes will resume on the morning of Monday, April 4. Some students may be going away during spring break; traveling with friends or visiting their families. Others may be staying on campus. What is your student up to during the break this year? A spring break get-together would be great!

Upcoming Local Events

Deco Japan: Shaping Art and Culture, 1920-1945
January 29-April 24, Middlebury College Museum of Art

An exhibition showcasing the wonderful craftsmanship and sophistication associated with Japanese design.
http://museum.middlebury.edu/exhibitions/upcoming/node/1456

8th Annual Vermont Chili Festival
Saturday, March 12, 2016

A delicious way to enjoy the winter with your student. Come to downtown Middlebury and enjoy great-tasting chili, live music, street performers and more!
http://business.addisoncounty.com/Events/details/8th-annual-vermont-chili-festival-03-12-2016-5794

Timothy Cummings and Guests
Sunday, March 13, 4 p.m., McCullough Social Space

A celebration of the music and dance of Ireland and Brittany, the "Celtic" region of northwestern France. Audience participation in singing and dancing is encouraged!

Hirshfield International Film Series

Come to the Dana Auditorium on Saturdays at 3 or 8 p.m. to enjoy fabulous foreign and independent films for free!
http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/fmmc/hirschfield/2015-2016

Spring Student Symposium
Friday, April 15, 2016

The 2016 Spring Student Symposium marks the 10th anniversary of an event that highlights the academic and creative endeavors of our students. Many international students will present their research and they would love to have you there to support them.
http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/resources/ctlr/students/uro/symposium

Find other exhibitions, performances and events at the College by clicking on the following links:

- The College Calendar: http://www.middlebury.edu/events
- Middlebury College Museum of Art: http://museum.middlebury.edu/
- Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce: http://business.addisoncounty.com/events
- Burlington happenings: http://www.sevendaysvt.com/

FIS Story Corner

Thank you to hosts who have shared stories and pictures with us. It is clear that our students have been truly welcomed into their host families' lives.

Wendy and Glen Goodwin visited former students, Iraj de Alwis '15 (above) in Sri Lanka and Pooja Shahani '10 (below) in Bangalore this winter. "What a blessing it is to be host parents," Wendy said.

Miguel Alejandro Castillo (left) enjoyed a summer feast with his hosts, Gail Borden and family (left to right) Gabriel, Sophia, and Jeff Cason.

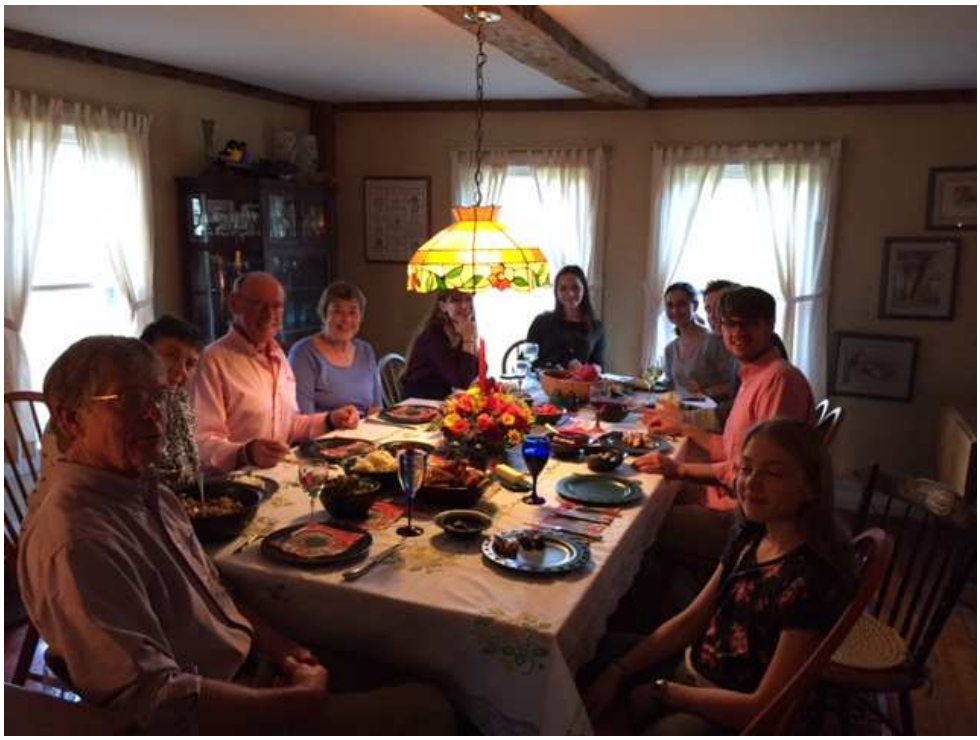
Hosts Anne and Ed Wheeler created an Afghani and Indian feast with their students Zeest Hassan, Priyanjali Sinha and friends. Anne reported, "We supplied the food and space; they brought the expertise, music and fun!"

Gad Kibet, Class of 2019, had an awesome time with the Kearns family this past fall. Here's Gad enjoying Halloween pumpkins with Amanda, 11, (left) and making pizza with Devon, 14, (right).

Hosts Leila and Joe McVeigh with son Nat welcome student Martin Naunov back to campus last fall with a celebratory dinner.

The Landis Family said, "We love when Gilbert stops in, sometimes with friends, to visit us. We all adore Gilbert."

Gilbert (second from left) and 2 friends with Willem and Ella Landis.



Vlad Kremenovic (second from right) spent Thanksgiving 2015 with his hosts Brud Leedom and Bob Wertz and their family. Brud told us, "Vlad is a very important member of our family."

Danilo Herrera (center) traveled more than 2,000 miles by car with his hosts Nicole Librandi and Bill Brown during winter break. "The holidays were even more joyful because we shared all of it with Danilo," expressed Nicole and Bill.

Estelle Elizagoien (center) enjoyed a beautiful fall hike up Snake Mountain with her hosts Susan Polk and Glen Wehrwein.

We always welcome new pictures and stories from hosts. Please share with us at: isss@middlebury.edu .

Enjoy memorable times with your students in the upcoming months. You make a real difference in their lives. We tip our hats to you!

ISSS Staff
Kathy Foley, Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Joani Taylor, International Student and Scholar Advisor
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As always, thank you for being a part of this meaningful program.